

Message Text

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51
ACTION NSF-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2097

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FOR SCI AND NSF

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, OCON, UR
SUBJ: S AND T AGREEMENT: SECOND S AND T

REF: A. STATE 176528 B. MOSCOW 10372

1. BOTH PRONSKIY AND BERDENNIKOV OF SCST HAVE MADE UNUSUALLY STRONG OBJECTIONS TO LIMITATION IMPOSED BY U.S. SIDE (PARA TWO REF A) ON SIZE OF SOVDEL COMING TO U.S. TO PARTICIPATE IN SECOND S AND T SYMPOSIUM. PRONSKIY SEEMED PARTICULARLY OFFENDED BY THIS LIMITATION, NOTING THAT IS WAS IRONIC THAT SOVIET SIDE SHOULD BE PENALIZED FOR BEING SO SUCCESSFUL IN AROUSING INTEREST IN THIS PARTICULAR BILATERAL PROJECT. SCIATT POINTED OUT THAT U.S. PLANNING FOR THIS VISIT HAS ALREADY COME RATHER FAR ALONG, AND THIS PLANNING WAS BASED ON MAXIMUM OF TEN SOVIETS AS AGREED DURING DURING MOSCOW SYMPOSIUM. BERDENNIKOV ARGUED THAT HE WAS NEVERTHELESS AT LOSS TO UNDERSTAND U.S. RATIONALE, ESPECIALLY SINCE SOVIETS ARE PAYING OWN WAY. HE ADDES THAT SCST WOULD IMPOSE SUCH LIMITATION ONLY FOR MOST URGENT REASONS AND CLAIMED THAT SCST HAS BEEN VERY GENEROUS WITH U.S. GROUPS AND ACCOMODATION OF SPOUSES. HE REPORTED THAT FIRST REACTION OF ARUTYANOV WAS THAT HE WOULD

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RESTRICT HIS DELEGATION TO TEN MEMBERS, BUT "THEY

WOULD ALL BRING THEIR WIVES".

2. COMMENT: UNLESS THERE ARE OVERRIDING REASONS FOR
LIMITATION ON SIZE OF THIS GROUP, EMBASSY STRONGLY
RECOMMENDS THAT PROPOSED DELEGATION SIZE OF
THIRTEEN SPECIALISTS BE ACCEPTED. IT SHOULD BE
NOTED THAT WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED ANY EFFORTS BY
SOVIET SIDE TO RESTRICT SIZE OF U.S. DELEGATIONS,
ESPECIALLY FOR PROJECTS UNDER THE US-USSR
ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT WHERE SIZE RESTRICTIONS HAVE
OFTEN BEEN IMPOSED BY SOVIETS, BUT WHICH, FOR THE MOST PART,
WERE EVENTUALLY LIFTED AFTER EMBASSY PROTESTS AND
ARGUMENTATION ALONG THE LINES NOW BEING USED BY SCST.
LIMITING SIZE OF SOVDEL, UNLESS ESSENTIAL, WILL
CONSIDERABLY WEAKEN OUR OWN POSITION IN POSSIBLE
FUTURE REPRESENTATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT. IT IS UNUSUAL
FOR PRONSKIY TO TAKE SUCH AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN
QUESTION OF THIS TYPE. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT HE
CONSIDERS THIS TO BE A MATTER OF POLICY THAT WILL
HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION OF
S AND T AGREEMENT, BUT THERE WAS NO HINT OF FUTURE
RETALIATION.

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